

The Sun

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To Secretary Bryan—A Fair Question.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Can the Department of State inform me as to how many Americans must be murdered in Mexico in order to disturb its sensibilities and stir its activities to the extent produced by the murder of one subject of Great Britain? What, in Mr. Bryan's opinion, would be a fair ratio?

W. SCOTT.

Hot Springs, Ark., February 25.

A Comparison of the World's Great Navies.

For the information of societies and persons that desire to compare the United States navy with the fleets of other nations, Powers Lieutenant C. C. GILL, U. S. N., has prepared tables of ships built and building and of the personnel of the different services. It is published in the last issue of *Naval Institute Proceedings*.

The strength of the modern navy is determined chiefly by the number of its dreadnoughts (including battleships and battle cruisers), destroyers, torpedo boats and submarines. Tonnage does not afford a satisfactory valuation, because pre-dreadnought ships, which cannot take their place in the first line of battle, swell the total. England, for instance, has forty pre-dreadnought battleships of 10,000 tons and over, and the United States twenty-four, but most of them could be quickly sunk by an all big gun ship.

Counting only dreadnoughts of both types, England has 27 built; Germany, 17; the United States, 7; Japan, 3, and France has only 2. Of dreadnoughts building or authorized England has 15; Germany, 9; France, 9; Japan, 7; the United States, 5. It should be noted that of capital ships built and building the United States can reckon twelve and Japan ten, four of the Japanese ships building being of 30,000 tons to carry 14 inch guns, and three of them being of 27,500 tons to carry primary guns of the same calibre. The United States has one ship of 31,000 tons building and one authorized; both will have main batteries of 14 inch guns. It is the Japanese programme to close the gap as much as possible by constructing more of the ships of greatest tonnage and heaviest gun fire.

England has of destroyers built 143, torpedo boats 49 and submarines 72; Germany, 130 destroyers and 24 submarines (no torpedo boats); the United States, 40 destroyers, 18 torpedo boats and 25 submarines; Japan, 54 destroyers, 28 torpedo boats and 13 submarines; France, 81 destroyers, 130 torpedo boats and 75 submarines. Of such boats building England has 44 destroyers and 22 submarines; Germany, 12 destroyers and 12 submarines; the United States, 16 destroyers and 26 submarines; Japan, 2 destroyers and 2 submarines, and France, 5 destroyers and 18 submarines. There is little difference between the United States and Japan in destroyers, but in torpedo boats the United States has a considerable advantage. In capital ships the United States is correspondingly and prospectively not much stronger, and the fact should not be lost upon Congress, which will soon be asked to authorize two new ships and to return to the old programme of uniformity.

On the Mexican Border.

Governor COLQUITT of Texas, who at different times has advocated armed intervention in Mexico, is now endeavoring the Administration by asking to be allowed to send a body of Texas Rangers across the Rio Grande to arrest the murderers of CLEMENTE VARGAS, an American citizen, who, according to one account of the outrage, was seized by Federals on an island belonging to Webb county. "I insist, Mr. President," says the Governor, "that Texas, as a sovereign State, is entitled to the protection of Texas citizens on the border from an unbearable condition like that which now exists." And Mr. COLQUITT wants to know "when the United States Government now recognizes as the constituted authority in Mexican States bordering on the Rio Grande."

A brigade of regulars is stationed in the "sovereign State" of Texas to protect her citizens, as Governor COLQUITT very well knows, and if Americans with arms in their hands are to cross the border for that purpose they must be soldiers of General Scott's command. In the discussion now going on in Washington on the point whether it is valid

in international law for troops to invade Mexico on a mission to protect American citizens or punish Mexicans for acts of aggression, a number of cases are cited to support such a course, but the fact seems to be overlooked that the precedents relate to periods when there was a Federal Government in Mexico recognized by the United States. In December, 1877, Colonel W. R. SHAFER, U. S. A., went over the line with a force to attack Lipan Indians who had been committing depredations in Texas. Previously the Secretary of War, Mr. McCARY, had directed General Ord, the department commander, to notify the Mexican authorities on the border that if they continued "to neglect the duty of suppressing these outrages" the United States would send troops into Mexico to deal with the perpetrators. Señor CUELLAR, the Mexican Minister at Washington, protested against the action of Colonel SHAFER, and ultimately an agreement was made between the two countries providing "for the crossing of the frontier by the armed forces of either country in pursuit of hostile Indians." Secretary EVARTS in a communication to Mr. Foster, Minister to Mexico, laid down the broad principle that "the United States Government cannot allow marauding bands to establish themselves upon its borders with liberty to invade and plunder United States territory with impunity, and then, when pursued, to take refuge across the Rio Grande under protection of the plen of the integrity of the soil of the Mexican Republic."

What should be the policy of the United States when no recognition is extended to the Huerta Government and Mexicans in rebellion against that Government do not have the status of belligerents? Mr. Wilson takes the view that an entrance into Mexico by United States troops for any purpose would be an act of war. There might be cases in which it would be nothing of the kind theoretically, but Mexicans of both sides have given notice that they would regard the crossing of the border by American troops as armed invasion. Therefore it is not worth while splitting hairs about the validity or justification of a movement over the border by regulars or Rangers for any purpose whatsoever. If the Mexicans are resolved to view it as an act of war, then such it would be, and we should invade the country with our eyes open.

Good for Mrs. Rachenback!

On a bitterly cold day recently Mrs. JOHN RACHENBACK of South River, N. J., having disposed her eleven children in a manner calculated to conserve the heat and keep them comfortable, took up the work of wash day, conscious that if her house was unpretentious it was clean, and that if her means were not large she was not an object of pity or an applicant for charity.

To this woman's home—a home not in any essential unlike those of thousands of worthy, self-respecting Americans—came an agent of the State of New Jersey with a camera. He took a photograph of the room crowded with children and went his way.

When Mrs. RACHENBACK next heard of this photograph it was displayed in public by an agent of the State Board of Health as an illustration of bad housing conditions and as a warning to other mothers. Mrs. JOHN RACHENBACK, probably to the utter amazement of those who displayed the picture, was hurt and wounded by this assault on her manner of providing for her children, whom, it may be assumed, she loves as much as does the State.

Mrs. RACHENBACK did not whine or dissolve in tears or indulge in ineffective scolding. She demanded that the picture be withdrawn. She received a promise that it would be. That promise was broken. Thereupon Mrs. RACHENBACK went to the place where it was shown on exhibition and when it was thrown on the screen she rose from her seat and announced:

"I want you to take that picture off the screen."

"If you don't, I'll bust your machine."

Whereupon the person in charge of the exhibit, without a word of apology to Mrs. RACHENBACK, took the picture off, not because its projection constituted an indecent invasion of a citizen's rights, not because its exploitation in the manner in which it was used was an indefensible humiliation to Mrs. RACHENBACK, but because he feared that the spirited woman would carry out her threat.

Mrs. RACHENBACK's conduct is here set forth at length because she did exactly what should be done under such circumstances and furnished an example to other citizens similarly situated; and in the expectation that the incident may attract the attention of somebody in authority in New Jersey who possesses sufficient power to prevent the repetition of such a grossly improper incident, and in the hope that it may inspire in others a determination to fight for those rights of privacy that Jacks in office delight to override and invade when dealing with persons whose share of this world's goods is so small as to suggest that they may be exposed to indignity with impunity.

'Twas a Famous Victory.

The cable story of the Mawson expedition into the Antarctic brings sadly into application Southey's last verse on the Battle of Blenheim. In which old KASPAR says to the little boy:

"And everybody praised the Duke,
"Who this great fight did win."
"But what good came of it at last?"
Quoth little PETERKIN:
"Why, that I cannot tell," said he;
"But 'twas a famous victory!"

darting without further loss of life." Had he not survived his thirty days of solitary starvation and terrific sufferings there would have been a story better left untold. Even he admits of that horrible month: "I do not wish to be reminded."

Words like these, full to the brim with human torture, make us pause to ask anew if these brilliant polar triumphs pay. To summarize Dr. MAWSON's summary of the work accomplished, it may be put thus: First, the discovery of new lands and islands. And the inevitable query: Who is to inhabit and prosper upon these unclaimed, uncharted wastes?

Second, "the establishment of two Antarctic wintering stations separated by an airline of 1,000 miles, both on lands never before sighted." Who dwells in them now? And how long will it be before the eye of man will sight them again? Third, the establishment upon an island of "a wireless connecting link with the Antarctic" for immediate use in preparing weather forecasts. Two years were spent in mapping and investigating this island. But has the Australian Commonwealth found an operator willing to exist and do repair work near the axis of the earth?

Another despatch states that the expedition exposed many mineral deposits, "some of them rich." What a satire their existence is upon the helplessness of man's wealth! And it remains but to ask if all this knowledge, all this expense of human endurance and material output is worth the sacrifice of one able hero like Captain ROBERT SCOTT? Could not the world have used him and his brave men to better advantage than as a sacrifice to thrill the depths of fancy and admiration? Does not the adventurous spirit overreach itself?

"But 'twas a famous victory."

President HUERTA's pronouncement that the Washington Administration is most censurable for raising the embargo on munitions of war because the act "places the rebels in a favorable position for committing outrages and prevents the constituted Government from repressing as quickly and energetically as it would desire such excesses" shows him in the light of an audacious opportunist. CLEMENTE VARGAS, the Webb county stockman, was killed by HUERTA's own soldiers, and the raising of the embargo had no bearing at all upon the fate of the British subject WILLIAM S. BENTON.

I did not say, as has been reported, "Tell him I am the same old BILL!" WILLIAM SUTHER.

Why push from under the cornerstone of immortality?

If when the Mayor goes out to dinner the Park Department is going to clean the sidewalks and streets about his host's home, Mr. MITCHELL may expect an enormous increase in the number of invitations he receives.

We hasten to assure the Tribune that we do not regard the Justice who presided at Becken's trial as Judge Lynch. Judge Lynch's sentences are never set aside.

A United States Commissioner in Alabama has decided that the picture "September Morn'" is art. It certainly is not nature.

The only section of the House of Commons which will be able to derive any solid satisfaction out of the result of the by-election at Leith Burghs is the Labor party. The candidate was at the bottom of the poll, but he polled over three thousand votes, and his presence in the contest was directly responsible for the loss of the seat by the Liberals by the narrow majority of sixteen. In view of similar results at recent by-elections the fact hardly need further demonstration that the Labor party holds the balance of power in British politics at the present time, but they will doubtless find satisfaction in the additional proof afforded by the Leith election. The Liberals must be content with whatever comfort they can derive from the reflection that, though a Unionist was returned, the majority of the electors of the Leith Burghs have declared in favor of the home rule bill. The Unionists will welcome the addition of another vote to their strength in the House of Commons, but they have gained at the best a pyrrhic victory which they can hardly advance as evidence of the unpopularity at the home rule bill. The intervention by the Labor party of a third candidate to split the Liberal vote in recent contests creates a serious situation for the Liberals. If the policy is pursued consistently at the next general election their defeat, already anticipated, will be rendered certain, and the confusion surrounding the home rule issue worse confounded. A Unionist Government might well be returned to Westminster with a comfortable majority gained by a minority vote. Mr. ASQUITH can hardly be censured for asserting that a general election at the present time would decide nothing.

Ex-Lieutenant BECKEN's announcement that he will not try for re-election on the policy force fatally affects one of the most effective arguments advanced in favor of the "Goethals bills."

Commissioner DAVIS will not allow persons having no legitimate business in the City Prison to visit the Tomb hereafter. The next step in reform might well be designed to keep those who belong there inside the walls.

The Central Park watchdog that saved Head Keeper Burt Stevens' life by attacking Old Smiles, the rhinoceros, when that gentle beast tried to gore him, is undoubtedly an Irish terrier.

We are praying for rain, and we are praying hard for it. We want rain and sun, and the policy force has never been able to get a "workable formula." Will some of your Spanish American readers send the recipe?

Nothing would tend more to reduce the high cost of living than better knowledge of some of these good, inexpensive foreign dishes. L. H. B. S.

Watchdog nabs policeman, allowing thief to escape—Headline.
A bloodhound, undoubtedly.

Moral Uses of Dark Things.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: It's an ill wind, etc. However distressing the income tax law may be to many people, it is a boon to the public.

New York, February 27.

HOW TO TREAT MEXICO.

Joint Intervention by the American Powers.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: The Sun is right, as usual. Combined intervention by the American Powers of course, but in the following manner. There is evidently no man strong enough or popular enough with all factions in Mexico to be capable of bringing order out of the present chaos. Very well, there are several excellent Mexicans who have served their country well in the diplomatic service abroad, where they have remained so long that many of them are not allied with any particular faction at home. Take, for example, Señor de Bostegui, at present, or very lately, Minister to one of the great European States, a cultivated, very affable and level-headed gentleman. Let the American Powers take him, or one like him, and say to the warring factions in Mexico: "Lay down your arms in the interests of your fatherland, let us carry on things financial and civil for a short term of years with this native and patriotic Mexican as our general agent, and, as conditions become calmer, we will gradually pass over the Government to the Mexicans themselves, and a general election under really fair conditions can then be held." Why, just as easy as falling off a log!

Boston, February 26.

Ex-Minister Sherrill's Suggestion a Year Ago.

"Suppose affairs should take so serious a turn in Mexico that, either to forestall an armed civil war, or to prevent some European Power seeking to defend its citizens or else to perform like service for some citizens of our own hemisphere, it finally becomes necessary under the terms of the Monroe Doctrine that the United States intervene, I would suggest that we invite Argentina or Brazil, or some other American country to join with us."

"What would be the result of such an invitation? It would have two marked tendencies, both of which would be highly desirable. "First, it would entirely remove any idea among our South American neighbors that our purpose was land grabbing, because a man does not invite his neighbors to accompany him on an errand intended to benefit him alone. "Secondly, and in my opinion of equal importance, it would free our Government from the persistent importunities of individuals and corporations urging our sole intervention to benefit their own pockets, but which would not favor a joint intervention by us along with other Powers."

"Furthermore, it would be the best and most convincing form of invitation to Latin America to participate equally with us in the responsibilities and development of the Monroe Doctrine. The great doctrine would at once become continental and cease to be unilateral, which is to-day its one great defect."

"It is not the duty of the United States to police Latin America, and the sooner we get that idea spread broadcast, not only in South America but also in North America, the better will it be for our international reputation. "The Monroe Doctrine, as it stands, is a dead letter. It is not the duty of the United States to police Latin America, and the sooner we get that idea spread broadcast, not only in South America but also in North America, the better will it be for our international reputation. "The Monroe Doctrine, as it stands, is a dead letter. It is not the duty of the United States to police Latin America, and the sooner we get that idea spread broadcast, not only in South America but also in North America, the better will it be for our international reputation."

Chronologically the case divides itself into periods covering "the arrests," "the preliminary trial," "the tortures," "the trial proper," "a time of foreign publicity" (outside of the Associated Press channels) and (in response to the foreign publicity) "a retrial" at which it was established that no conspiracy had existed.

The trial in some measure became to Japan what the Dreyfus case had been to France. It is a dramatic phase of the case which reveals the demands that they also should be placed on trials as well as their communicants. It shows the foreign press in the East led by the Kobe Chronicle in a heroic struggle for justice, and it discloses the Associated Press and the United States diplomatic service in alarmed agitation burrowing out of sight.

At Buenos Ayres.

"As rapidly as any other American republic grows to possess the stability, the prospect of the coming war, which is the self-respecting insistence upon doing right to others and exacting right from others, just so rapidly that country becomes itself a sponsor and guarantor of the Monroe Doctrine."

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Two Mystic Numbers.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Three and seven are more than any other numbers historical. Take, by way of example, the two triumvirates: the province des Trois-Rivières, Verdun, Metz and Bonaparte; Cambaceres and Lebrun, etc. For women let me quote the three graces. We have seven days in the week, seven notes of music, seven stars in the constellation of Ursa Major, seven colors of man, seven primary colors. We can pick among seven sins, and the knout has seven tails.

There were no extremes on contrition, seven sacraments, the Virgin "aux Sept Douleurs," and Christ's last words were seven.

When school-remembering we find the city with seven hills, the seven wonders of the world, the seven ages of Greece, the seven chiefs in front of Thebes, the seven magistrates of the Septemvirate, the shield of Ajax with seven holes, the hydra of Lerna with seven heads, the seven classes of the Egyptian people.

A child is supposed to have sense when seven years of age; Petit Poucet's boots could cover seven leagues with a single stride.

Henri de La Fayette.

New York, February 28.

Prigoles.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: I have traveled a good deal in Spanish America, and I have seen and heard of many local dishes and have come to the conclusion that the Mexican frijoles (red beans), cooked as only the Spaniard can, is the best dish of the kind. It is a delicious dish, as well as extremely cheap. Prepared correctly it is neither a soup nor a vegetable, but a combination of both. I long for a good recipe, but have never been able to get a "workable formula." Will some of your Spanish American readers send the recipe?

Nothing would tend more to reduce the high cost of living than better knowledge of some of these good, inexpensive foreign dishes. L. H. B. S.

New York, February 26.

A Prescription.

For nerves unstrung, for sleepless nights, For circulation that is slow, For melancholy, fancied sights, For worry when the purse runs low, For aches and pains that won't go away, For that in your system seems to lurk, Begin at once, and daily take, Eight solid hours of good, hard work.

C. E. M.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS.

Further Remarks on Its Course Regarding the Korean Conspiracy Case.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: The letter in THE SUN of February 18 entitled "The Foreign Service of the Associated Press" has been criticized on the score that it does not give the background of the "Korean Conspiracy Case" comprehensively enough to demonstrate clearly the treachery of the Associated Press and the United States diplomatic service.

To do this it is necessary to consider the East outside of Japan. We must survey the territory as an area of vast population, ignorant, filthy, often diseased, suffering through poverty and contumacious pestilence; a population of numbing indifference, creating moral torpor and physical indifferences. Penetrating this unfortunate mass several influences in recent years have wrought changes. Chief of these has been the United States Government in the Philippines, which by being an example republic within a zone of despotism has introduced a factor in the Orient which is thawing its frozen intelligence and leading it toward a plane where its peril will disappear.

The revolutionary influence in the north of Asia has been the Christian movement in Korea directed to a considerable extent by United States missionaries. Out of a total Korean population approximating 6,000,000 upward of 500,000 have embraced Christianity. This means not only (perhaps not so much) a change of religion, but a general cleaning up and the raising of different practical standards.

Christian missionaries invariably recoil from Oriental politics. Nevertheless as Christianity is fundamentally opposed to despotism Korea has furnished the curious spectacle of a religious democracy flourishing on the soil of despotism.

What is more natural than that a despotic Government should view such a development with uneasiness? Furthermore, the completion of the new Yalu River bridge has given to the Japanese Government a railway ten hours from Japan, completed to Mukden, where connection may be made with the Chinese Imperial Railway to Peking. The strategic advantage of this to Japan cannot be overestimated. Yet here in the acquired territory of a despotic Government, within the region of accomplished strategy, exists a growing force opposed in principle to this programme of despotism.

To the eye of a watchful Government this Korean Christian propaganda 500,000 strong conveyed the impressiveness which is never alienated from the victories of peace. It seemed to possess the elements of political antagonism. The 500,000 appeared an army awaiting the progress and reinforcement of that other numerically more powerful influence from the south which had its beginnings in the Philippines. The outposts of the East seemed in danger. The Government apparently was being undermined.

Then came the "Korean Conspiracy Case."

The Japanese authorities alleged the existence of a conspiracy among Christians, involving missionaries, to assassinate the Governor-General. Korean Christians in great numbers were arrested and tortured until they confessed to whatever the authorities required. A reign of terror was launched amid the congregations of the Christian Church in Korea.

Chronologically the case divides itself into periods covering "the arrests," "the preliminary trial," "the tortures," "the trial proper," "a time of foreign publicity" (outside of the Associated Press channels) and (in response to the foreign publicity) "a retrial" at which it was established that no conspiracy had existed.

The trial in some measure became to Japan what the Dreyfus case had been to France. It is a dramatic phase of the case which reveals the demands that they also should be placed on trials as well as their communicants. It shows the foreign press in the East led by the Kobe Chronicle in a heroic struggle for justice, and it discloses the Associated Press and the United States diplomatic service in alarmed agitation burrowing out of sight.

The Associated Press did not report the case until the retrial, when it sent forward meagre accounts short of all significance. Had the Associated Press reported it in the beginning it is doubtful if the case would have proceeded. Nothing so scatters conspirators as the publication of the plans, aside from which there was no evidence save tortured confessions. Publicity would have brought this out and would also have given support to the wing of the Japanese Government which opposed the whole programme.

Had the case been thrown out of court in the beginning United States missionaries would not have been forced to appeal abroad for justice. There would not have been a near approach to an international question with involved misunderstandings and friction; there would have been no reason for the national sensitiveness which inevitably followed.

But the Associated Press maintained the silence of the tomb. The unofficial publicity which publicity would have given to both the prisoners and their clergy, the Associated Press withheld. The right of American readers to know of important events this press organization ignored.

THE SUN deserves unqualified praise for its patriotic service.

HORACE T. TOMPKINS.

CAMBRIDGE, MASS., FEBRUARY 26.

Do They Want Mob Rule?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: You are to be congratulated on the splendid editorial article in THE SUN headed "Judge Lynch Wanted." Thinking people in this community are shocked at the attitude of certain newspapers whose editors seem to favor "mob rule." Do these editors not realize that the bulwark behind which they sit so securely is the very law that they deride, and that the assurance with which they daily skirt the edge of law is indicative of their confidence in the integrity and wisdom of the Judges they ridicule and abuse?

Hatter. They really wish to remove all judicial restraint and to rely for the safety of their persons and their property on what they are pleased to term "aroused public opinion."

Does democracy mean nothing to them? Does democracy mean the swaying of a multitude by appeals to their prejudices and passions rather than to their reason? Are they loath to see wisdom, temperance and sanity prevail over passion, prejudice and fury?

Would they, if accused of any crime, fall to away, themselves and any and every safeguard the law might afford? Would they, if unpopular, wish to try their cause before the crowd in Union square or Printing House square, or do they rest upon the law of the land, that which is unpopular is necessarily wrong?

V. N.

New York, February 27.

DINING OUT.

Abraham Hayward's Golden Rule Commended to New Yorkers.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: "A Dining Out" in THE SUN of February 22 entertainingly contrasts the present cost of high living at a New York restaurant with that in the old days. Abraham Hayward, Q. C., on vivand, in his famous essay on "The Art of Dining," that helped, as Lord Houghton thought, to place him at the head of English essayists of his period, created a new Pantheon or Valhalla for eminent cooks who matured during the first quarter of the last century, and among them was Beauvilliers who finally became cook to Louis XVIII.

Mr. Hayward informs us: "Beauvilliers was a remarkable man in many ways. He was placed by acclamation at the head of the classical school, so called, by school, of which the famous Carême used to be considered as the chief. Here the philosophic observer will not fail to mark the close analogy between cooking and literature."

"Beauvilliers' memory is reported to have been such that after a lapse of twenty years he could remember the dress by name persons who had dined two or three times at his house; and his mode of profiting by his knowledge was no less peculiar than his aptness in acquiring and retaining it."

"Divining, as it were by instinct, when a party of distinction were present, he was wont to approach their table with every token of the profoundest subservience to their will and the warmest interest in their gratification. He would point out one dish to be avoided, another to be had without delay; he would himself order reading and writing materials, and thought, or send for wine from a cellar of which he alone had the key; in a word, he assumed so amiable and engaging a tone, that all those around his table had the air of being many benefactions from himself. But he vanished after having supported his Amphitryon-like character for a few minutes, and the arrival of the bill gave ample evidence of the party's having dined at a restaurant."

"A Dining Out" reports an increase of 100 per cent in the cost when "we are blowing ourselves on Fifth avenue or Broadway in the restaurants," and he asks: "What are we going to do about it?"

To ascribe to America's metropolis provincialism or mauveism in the art of dining might be rashly heterodox; but its disconcerted diners and its avaricious restaurateurs may possibly be reconciled by reading and digesting Judge Thomas Walker's "Art of Dining" (London: George Bell & Sons, 1881), and Mr. Hayward's inimitable essay thereon (London: John Murray, 1894), which are both as enjoyable and where are found those two golden rules, one gastronomic, the other economic, as follows:

(1) A golden rule for dining well is, that you should dine after dinner lightness. Be fresh, with plenty of fire in you not heavy, bloated, sodden and beaten in spirit.

(2) The golden rule is, let men's dinners be according to their means; discard the extravagance of decoration, and imitative meanness of vanity.

GOURMET.

Police Disregard of Cruelty to Animals.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Why cannot the police be compelled to see and prevent the cruelty that is practised toward horses, which is a shame to a civilized and Christian community? They have the law on their side and drivers heed them if only they can be made to exercise its authority. But they are so often not to be found where there is need; and when found and dragged reluctantly to the scene of the trouble they exercise hardly more intelligence or humanity than the brutal owners, or drivers who own, employ, the lawless horse.

I speak from personal knowledge, having during the last few days and on many occasions during winter, seen the cruel and inhuman treatment of horses, and of a horse come to my attention. I have personally interfered with the cruelty of drivers, have hunted up policemen to lend their grudging aid, but have been unable to make them compel drivers to loosen the harness when the horse had fallen, to spread ashes, which are easily obtainable, to cover the hoofs of the horse, which they are too lazy or indifferent to handle to make them wrap burlap about the horse's feet so that it can assist itself, and to rest or encourage the animal when utterly exhausted. Then, too, I have seen work, and I know how hard it is to find a policeman who is doing otherwise than standing idly on some remote corner of a street, or of a horse being taken to move, and how usually incompetent when finally forced to do so. M. E. B.

New York, February 25.

A Fig of Tobacco?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Much to my surprise I was informed by several middle-aged friends yesterday that they had never heard "fig" used as a synonym for "piece of tobacco." Then, as I was unaccountably astonished, I failed to find any mention of "fig" in that sense in the latest edition of the Century Dictionary